GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:282
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
AMENDMENT IN MINES ACT,1952
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for amendment of Mines Act, 1952 has been pending with the Ministry for long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed for expediting the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 282 FOR ANSWER ON 03.09.2007 REGARDING `AMENDMENT IN MINES ACT, 1952` BY SHRI MOHAN RAWALE.

(a) to (d): In 1996, a Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour & Employment submitted a Report to the Government. Proposals for amendment of the Mines Act, 1952 were formulated on the basis of this Report and further inputs from three other sources viz.,

(i) Recommendations of the Inquiry Committee on various disasters;

(ii) Recommendations of various Safety Conferences & Working Group on Occupations Safety and Health set up by the Planning Commission; and

(iii) ILO Convention 176 concerning safety and health in mines.These were circulated to different Ministries and stakeholder groups in October 2001. In view of the far-reaching implications of these proposals, the responses of the Ministries and stakeholder groups were found to be widely divergent, needing extensive consultation and meetings to reconcile the differences. The consultation process is actively underway and the issue has also been examined on 11.1.2007 by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and by the Consultative Committee on 15.2.2007. However, since the objections to the proposals have already been largely examined and discussed, it is expected that a further period of one year would suffice to bring about these amendments.